

What is claimed:

1. An apparatus for activating a function of a device, comprising:
an elongated tubular member having a lumen extending from a proximal end to a distal end, wherein said lumen is adapted to translatably receive said device therein;
a retaining mechanism located within said lumen at said distal end for retaining said device within said lumen when said device is translated proximally within said lumen;
a resistive load means positioned within said lumen and adapted to contact said device received within said lumen, said resistive load means having a first resistive load level and a second resistive load level wherein said second resistive load level is greater than said first resistive load level;
a rod positioned within said lumen proximal to said resistive load means, said rod being translatable within said lumen; and
a locking mechanism for locking onto said rod;
wherein a force applied to said device is in turn applied to said resistive load means wherein, when said applied force is sufficient to overcome said first resistive load level, said device function is activated and further, when said applied force is sufficient to overcome said second resistive load level, said locking mechanism locks onto said rod.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said resistive load means comprises a spring.
3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said second resistive load is greater than said first resistive load.
4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the resistive load means comprises at least two resistive load members, and wherein said load members comprise a first load member and a second load member.
5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the second load member has a resistive load that is about 2 times to about 10 times that of the first load member.
6. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the first load member has a resistive load of about 0.5 to 3 lbft, and the second load member has a resistive load of about 1 to 30 lbft.

7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said activating of said device is achieved by pushing, pulling, or turning a portion of the device.
8. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising, at the distal end, an implant-retaining member.
9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the implant retaining member comprises a leaf-spring.
10. A kit comprising the apparatus of claim 1 and a drug delivery device the function of which is designed for activation by use of the apparatus.